GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3276
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the considerable rise in the prices of foodgrains during the last few years a large number of families in the rural areas of the country are unable to afford adequate quantity of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether severe food and nutritional scarcity in the country has affected almost half the children under three years of age and more than one-third of women in the country;

(c) if so, whether any integrated approach has been formulated to achieve food and nutritional security in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) to (d): Government has protected poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene oils are allocated to State Governments for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The off take of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes (OWS) has, however, been going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice off take have gone up from 242 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 to 316 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 and 335.27 lakh tonnes in 2007-08. During the period April-September 2008, 167.38 lakh tonnes wheat and rice has been allocated under TPDS. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 1.7.2002. For wheat it remains at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs 3 per kg for AAY. As per National Family Health Survey report (2005-06) the proportion of children under three years of age who are underweight decreased from 43 percent in NFHS-2 to 40 per cent in NFHS-3 and the proportion of ever-married women who are thin has decreased to 33 percent in NFHS-3 from 36 per cent in NFHS-2.

The Government also contributes to the better health of the masses through a complementary approach towards the food and nutrition component through its various programmes and schemes like:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is the world's largest programme addressing children under 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers where ICDS provides the following six services:

Supplementary Nutrition,
Immunization,
Health Checkups,
Referral services,
Pre-school Education,
Nutrition & Health Education.

(ii) Nutrition advocacy and awareness generation programmes of the Food & Nutrition Board

Nutrition Education and Training for both the masses and ICDS functionaries,
Training in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition,
Providing Fruits & Vegetable Processing facilities,
Mass Media Communication on nutrition awareness,
Food Analysis and Standardization,

(iii) The two programmes viz. Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojana seek to address the problem of inter-generation cycle of malnutrition by taking care of malnutrition among adolescent girls.